





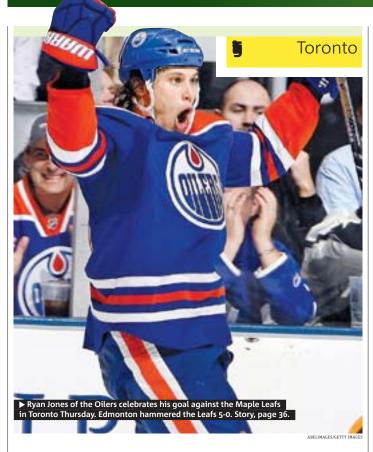


metron etro

Weekend, December 3-5, 2010 www.metronews.ca



News worth sharing.



Oil continue roll with rout of Leafs

Stelmach blames fear mongering

Says opponents are spreading doubt about health care {page 4}

From secret to the ridiculous

WikiLeaks showing a humorous side to leaders {page 8}

'We just get our memories'

▶ Mother of murder victim Nina Courtepatte angered by appeals court decision to uphold the youth sentence of one of her daughter's killers ▶ Courtepatte, 13, was raped, beaten to death with a sledgehammer in 2005

The mother of slain teenager Nina Courtepatte says she is extremely disappointed that the Alberta Court of Appeal has upheld a youth sentence for one of the young people convicted in her

daughter's killing.

The Crown had argued that the girl,
who was convicted of second-degree murder but can't be named under the Youth
Criminal Justice Act, should have actually
been sentenced as an adult.

Courtepatte was 13 when she was lured from West Edmonton Mall by a group of self-described "mall rats" with the promise of a bush party in the early hours of April 3, 2005. Instead, she was taken to a muddy fairway on a golf course west of the city, raped and beaten to death with a sledgehammer.

The Appeal Court agreed with the trial judge who found that the girl's role in the crime was limited compared to that of her co-accused — she did not participate in the planning, she did not strike the fatal blow, and she was a party to the aggravated sexual assault rather than a key perpetrator.

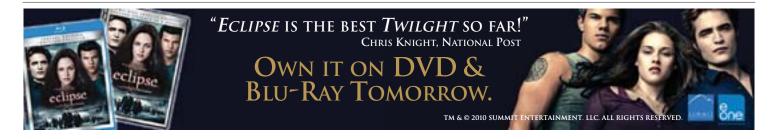
Fifth man to be retried

➤ Four people — a teenage boy, a man and two teenage girls — stand convicted in the killing after various trials and appeals. A fifth man was originally acquitted, but is to be retried in February.

The trial judge also factored the teen's immaturity into his decision to hand out a youth sentence of four years in custody and three years under community supervision.

Courtepatte's mother, Peacha Atkinson, told a local radio station that the decision is another blow to her faith in the justice system.

"It sucks because anybody who does a violent crime, they should pay for it," she told CHED. "People who are in my shoes, we suffer so much and to have them walking around — they still get their birthdays and everything and we don't. We just get our memories." THE CANADIAN PRESS







- application with your smartphone at 2dscan.com
- Use the ScanLife application on your smartphone

On the web at metronews.ca

Stephen Harper defends Afghan ambassador, the latest WikiLeaks victim. Video at metronews.ca/ canada



Councillors go to bat for park access

• Councillors oppose proposed fee increase User fees, new facilities biggest challenges for 2011



Residents might be paying the same fees for recreational facilities in 2011 as they are now after members of city council disagreed with a proposed increase.

Ward 1 Coun. Linda Sloan believes that continual fee increases make it harder for families to enjoy the facilities.

"Particularly in a downturn, economically, when families are under stress, we want them to have access to facilities that afford them the opportunity to seek a healthy outlook," she said during budget deliberations Thursday.

Sloan and Ward 12 Coun. Amarjeet Sohi were appalled that an annual multifacility pass for families would cost the same as property taxes for an aver-

Projection

The proposed community services budget for 2011 includes \$219 million from the tax levy and \$65 million in revenue, for a \$284 million budget with the 0.8 per cent increase.

age resident — \$1,500 to \$1,700.

User fees increased this year as well, so Sloan made a motion to freeze all fees.

She also made a motion to disallow a "discriminatory" two-tier system for the new Terwillegar Recreation Centre, slated to open in

January.
The facility has more amenities than most, so the fees are higher. Also, passes purchased at the new centre can be used elsewhere but passes for elsewhere cannot be used in Terwille-



Death not yet called a slaying

The suspicious death of a woman in her Millwoods home Wednesday after-noon is under investiga-tion, though Edmonton aren't saying whether it's a homicide.

Police responded to a call from EMS personnel to a home on 46 Street near 43 Avenue at 4:27 p.m.

Police had the area blocked off Wednesday evening and were back on scene Thursday morning.

The autopsy was also yes-

25 If ruled a homicide, this death will be the city's 25th of 2010. The 24th murder of the year was earlier this week, as a woman in her late 40s was found slain in her Capilano home.

terday, said EPS spokesperson Lisa Sobchyshyn.

"Hopefully that will help us find why this woman was found deceased," she said. • HEATHER MCINTYRE



Police released few details related to a suspicious death in

News in brief

Murder victim identified

KILLING. A woman found slain in her Capilano home on Monday afternoon has been identified as 49-year-old Sandra Lamb.

The autopsy was completed Wednesday, but Edmonton police are not releasing the cause of death. METRO

Police have new watchdogs

APPOINTMENT. Council appointed Cathryn Palmer and Keli Tamaklo to the **Edmonton Police** Commission yesterday.

Palmer is a consultant in the health, social services and voluntary sec-Tamaklo is financial adviser who has worked with diverse cultural groups. • metro



2006 Carrera Cab #6364A Black 22.564 kms \$69,900



2008 Cayenne #PA8015 Crystal Silver 64.700 kms \$54,900



2007 Boxster S #PA8031 Black 22,770 kms \$55.900



Porsche Approved. Certified Pre-Owned Vehicles.

Presenting a rare instance of opposites happily co-existing. With the Porsche Approved Certified Pre-Owned Program, you will find yourself behind the wheel of a vehicle that's been meticulously inspected and reconditioned by a certified Porsche technician. Then backed by an industry-leading limited warranty IntelliChoice recently named best luxury warranty for 2009. Which means you can rest easy knowing you've made not only a dream purchase, but a sound one too. Visit our website to learn more about the award, or experience the thrilling sense of security for yourself only at your authorized Porsche dealer Porsche. There is no substitute



Norden Autohaus Norden (780) 484-3000





Premier says opposition spreads fear

• Fall legislature ended with politicians pointing fingers over stories of patients suffering in emergency rooms

Ed Stelmach wrapped up a tumultuous fall legislature session Thursday, accusing his political opponents of spreading fear over long wait times in health care.

"They have a job to do, I guess, but part of that job is not to create the situation or put fear into people that they may not be able to access any health services in this province," Stelmach told the house during question period.

'We have a very good system. It needs improving. It will. We have the money in place.'

Opposition Liberal Leader David Swann told Stelmach that the health file has destroyed the gov-

ernment's credibility.

"Actions speak louder than words. You, sir, have lost the trust of Albertans. You've certainly lost the trust of health professionals. I believe you've lost the confidence of most of this legislature," Swann said as Stelmach's backbenchers hooted and laughed.

"That's exactly what the public is looking at — this kind of (opposition) the-



atrics," Stelmach replied.

"We're going to stay the course and we're going to get the job done.'

The finger-pointing has lasted for the last five weeks of legislature.

Raj Sherman, the parliamentary assistant health and an emergency room doctor, was booted from caucus for criticizing former health minister Ron Liepert and others on the health file. He then accused them of a whisper campaign to smear him as men-tally unstable.

The Tories introduced a revised health act that became the subject of an allnight opposition filibuster.

Brink of collapse

- The legislature has been political paroxysms that began in late October when Dr. Paul Parks, the province's top emergency room doctor, warned that overcrowding had put the emergency ward system on the verge of collapse, fering and even dying waiting for care.
- the province's top health bureaucrat, Stephen Duckett, agreed to leave his post after he argued with reporters on the emergency situation.

their desks while others talked from sundown to sunrise on an amendment to put definitive surgical wait times in law. The mo-

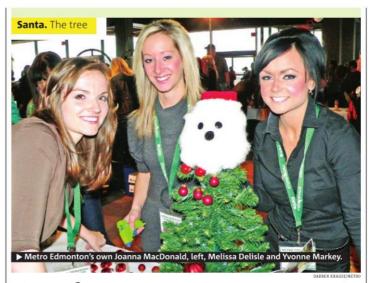
ernment policy document suggested the Tories plan to broaden privatized medi-cine under the public health umbrella.

- rocked by bureaucratic and and that patients were suf-
- In the weeks that followed,

Some members slept at

This week, a leaked gov-

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Trees for a cause

Three fine Metro ladies took some time out yesterday, along with other media to decorate a miniature Christmas tree, which will later be sold in the gift shop at the Festival of Trees at Shaw Centre this weekend. All proceeds go to purchase neurological equipment for the University Hospital.

Your DD

- Operation Red Nose takes approximately 200 volunteers to run, as well as office and administration staff
- A volunteer team would consist of three people: someone to drive, a navigator and someone to follow behind in the client's car.
- Prior to the Spirit Keeper Youth Society running the program it was operated by the Rotary Club of Edmonton Strathcona for six years. The program could be
- saved but planning usually starts in August or September, said Syrenne.

Red Nose cancelled

If you're planning on having a few drinks while out celebrating this festive season, don't count on Operation Red Nose for a lift

home. program, which The helps those who have consumed alcohol get home safely and responsibly during the holidays, will not operate in Edmonton this year due to a lack of re-

sources.

The Spirit Keeper Youth Society operated the national program last year, but has been downsized from 20 staff to four amidst

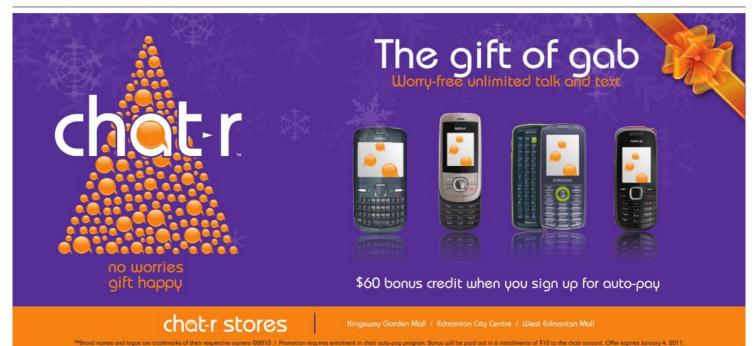
cutbacks

"It's quite a big project," said Sean Syrenne, executive director. "We didn't have the people or the space.

The society did reach out to a few other volunteer organizations in the community, but none were in a position to take it on.

The news is disappoint-g, said Clair Seyler, spokesperson for Edmonton Police Service, but police will continue to provide an education campaign including checkstops.

® HEATHER MCINTYRE



Eliminate Back Pain! <





New Revolutionary Procedure Finally in Edmonton!

For many years, the Canadian Decompression and Pain Centers (CDPC) have been successfully treating chronic low back and neck pain using a uniquely developed procedure called Neuro-Decompression. In 2006, the technology used at CDPC won the Australian Design Award in the "Medical and Scientific" category.

This revolutionary treatment procedure has consistently achieved great results at CDPC locations throughout Canada. This procedure is a health Canada and FDA approved procedure. Referrals come from surgeons, medical doctors, and other health care professionals across the country, but referral is not required (you can contact us directly).

Neuro-Decompression is a three-phased system that was developed by CDPC doctors.

How Does It Work?

The three phases at CDPC include Neuro-Decompression, Oxygen Enhancement and a unique Neuro-Nutrition phase. The full procedure is performed simultaneously during a patient's treatment.

The three phases combined create a unique treatment procedure offered only at the Canadian Decompression and Pain Centers. All three stages are integral to the system to ensure that the patient's recovery is quick, successful and long term. Many patients feel immediate relief from pain, but the goal of the treatment program is to eliminate pain long term, not temporarily, and to restore and improve the patient's quality of life.

What Are People Saying About the Treatment?

I suffered for four years with severe back pain caused by three compacted discs in the lower lumbar region of the spine. I could only walk for about half a block before the pain set in. I could only stand up for fifteen minutes before the pain would start.

After 22 treatments of decompression, my back pain was gone but I had very sore and stiff back muscles. I then went on a two-week tour of egypt which entailed walking over uneven ground climbing steps and down into tombs for four to six hours a day. My wife and I were toolly amazed there was no back pain; just some sore muscles with very slight discomfort. This was over a month ago and I'm still doing

I would not hesitate to recommend Canadian Decompression and Pain Centers to anyone, I have received excellent treatment from all clinic stuff.

- Oitford (Ben)Shindell, Edmonton

I have had a lot of problems with my lower back and with my sciotic nerve... I heard about CDPC and made an appointment...I progressed from severe pain to very little pain over the treatment program! I would recommend this treatment to anyone having lower back problems.

- Kenneth R., Edmonton

I was experiencing stabbing pains in my lower back. After six treatments, the pain was gone and I had more mobility. I was recommended by a neighbour and have already suggested this treatment to a friend with back problems.

-Corol Pattinroth, Edmonton

I am very grateful to the doctor's and staff at the CDPC. After 20 years of back pain I was so fortunate to receive the decompression treatments. I am now pain free after 20 sessions. The staff is great! They are caring and compassionate people. -Rudi Marczak, Edmonton

Theart about CDPC from a friend who had read an at in a newspaper. Thad terrible lower back pain which I discovered was being cause by three hemisted discs with an epinching my science neive causing exoutiating pain and numbers in my feet and also conseing drop fact. I was to the point of using a case to get around. To this point I had tried chiegractic massage, and physiotherapy who suggested on MRI, which I had

I then called CDPC to have the consultation and they were sure they awid help me, i started taking my first treatments the first week of Nevember - four treatments per week with a total of twesty. After the first four treatments I felt some relief of pain and after 12 treatments was able to get along without the case, I have now finished my treatments and I feel 100% better and are able to enjoy life. I would like to give a special thank-you to the staff of CDPC for their compassion and care to me as their patients. I would highly recommend them for anyone's treatment.

- Ron Kelly, Edmonton

I worked in the machine industry as a machinist for over forty years. I have had a lot of problems with my lower back in the L4, L5 area and with my sciatic nerve over the last five

When I heard about CDPC I made an appointment to have my back checked. They set me up on a twenty week program. I progressed from severe pain to very little pain over the treatment program. I would recommend this procedure to anyone having lower back problems.

I would like to thank the doctors and staff of CDPC for helping me with my lower back.

-Kenneth R., Edmonton

CONDITIONS TREATED:

- Disc bulge or Herniation Spinal Stenosis

- Radiculopathy (pinched nerve)
- Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Osteoarthritis
- verative disc disease

www.canadiandecompression.com

FREE CONSULTATIONS 780.433.0555

Edmonton - 11044 51" Ave Pleasantview Building - Unit 301 - 780.433.0555 Calgary - 1600 90th Ave - Unit A306 - 403.452.9977 North Calgary - 2675 36 St NE - Unti 515 - 403.452.5600 Location in Saskatoon now open!



Hey, we're a hotspot again ...

Alberta has again been labelled Canada's hotspot for investors by the Fraser Institute, a major public policy think-tank, in its 2010 investment climate report released Thursday.

Neighbouring provinces also fared

well. Saskatchewan was ranked second and British Columbia was third.

"The western provinces, led by Alberta, have cemented their position as the best places to invest in Canada," said Charles Lammam, senior policy analyst.

"The policies they have put in place should serve as an example to the rest of Canada on the actions they need to take to attract investment."

METRO

280 more beds will unclog ERs

Alberta Health Services says it will open 280 hospital beds by March to help unclog emergency rooms.

The pledge is part of the superboard's response to a self-assessment on how well the health-care system has been performing this year.

Acting CEO Dr. Chris Eagle said Alberta Health Services will release ways on how it will reduce wait times for surgery in a few weeks.

"AHS is implementing aggressive action plans to improve performance to reduce emergency department lengths of stay and improve access to continuing care and surgery wait times," Eagle said.

He made the remarks following the first meeting of the Alberta Health Services board since former CEO Stephen Duckett was The release of a mandate paper follows the resignations of four board members who complained of government interference.

let go Nov. 24.

The board also released a paper that spells out how it should work with the provincial government.

The document says the board is accountable to Health Minister Gene Zwozdesky who is in turn accountable to Albertans through the legislature.

"It provides clarity around who has what accountability," said board chairman Ken Hughes.

Alberta Health Services also said it is on track to record a modest \$20-million surplus by the end of the fiscal year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U better believe it — U School's cool



Let's set a date for learning

At the end of the school year, there will be a U School convocation.

The first one took

place back in May, following the first three sessions.

The second convocation for students who participated between September 2010 and March 2011 will be held on April 19, 2011. ♠ Happy Sherwood School kids get a real post-secondary taste



After Dakota Kruger blew on a balloon that had been dipped in liquid nitrogen, she decided that going to university to study science would be pretty neat. "It was cool," said the

"It was cool," said the shy Grade 5 student, who was in attendance at the University of Alberta's U School yesterday.

Kruger has been attending U School all week with her classmates from Sherwood School.

The program is an initiative of the University of Alberta Senate, and brings in students from inner city schools to explore the learning opportunities at the post-secondary institution.

"We target mainly high need schools, but all could be welcome at some time," said Linda Hughes, senate chancellor.

"It shows them university and higher education could be in their future."

Hughes said the students who have participated in the program start out shy and intimidated, but are really excited by the end of the week.

"They say 'I'm going to go to university,'" she said, adding it's a great thing,

That's science

- The ballon that was dipped in liquid nitrogen shrivelled in the
 - -176 degree Celsius potion. Grad student Amy Smith also put in a banana. The frozen banana shattered when it was dropped on

whether they want to become a scientist or an artist.

the floor

Teacher Colin Samchuk said the students from Sherwood School spent the week touring the campus, meeting athletes and learning about subjects such as photography, Iroquois Confederacy and archeology.

Yesterday, they were in Triffo Hall, taking in science experiments related to space.

Three classes took in the program back in the spring, and Sherwood School was the fourth of nine inner city schools that will attend U School this year.

That means 305 students in grades 3, 4 and 5 will have had a taste of the university experience by the end of the school year.





The hottest devices are on every wish list.

Get the hottest devices this holiday season on Canada's best network. You'll enjoy the fastest speeds, the largest high-speed coverage, the fewest call failures and clear reception.1 Plus, they come with a SIM card giving you global coverage in over 200 countries on HSPA and GSM networks.

Visit a Bell store • 1888 4-MOBILE (662453) • bell.ca/best



Samsung Galaxy Tab™² The tablet with Flash

\$599°55 after \$50 bill credit

Powered by Android™

Available at select locations.



BlackBerru® Torch™ 9800 smartphone

No term

SAVE \$420

with a \$50 voice and data plan



Samsung Galaxy S™ Vibrant™ smartphone •

No term

\$499⁹⁵

3-yr. term

\$9995 SAVE \$400

with a \$50 voice and data plan



HTC Desire Z™ smartphone 🖣

3-yr. term

79⁹⁵⁴ SAVE \$420

No term \$**499**95

with a \$50 voice and data plan



LG Optimus Quantum™ with Windows® Phone 7

3-yr. term

SAVE \$400

with a \$50 voice and data plan









▶ FUTURE SHOP









WIRELESS etc...

((WIRELESSWAVE))

Available at the following Bell stores:

BANFF Cascade Plaza

Cascade Plaza
CALGARY
216 Saddletowne Circle
1052-17th Ave. S.W.
10802-17th Ave. S.W.
10802-17th Ave.
4801 Westwinds Dr.
9800 Harvest Hills Blvd. N.E
Beacon Hill Centre
Chinook Centre
Chinook Centre
Chorook Crossing
Deer Valley Shopping Centre
Deerfoot Meadows
Deerfoot Gutte Mail
Eaton Centre
Forest Lawn Shopping Centre
Forest Lawn Shopping Centre
Market Mail

Eaton Lentre
Forest Lawn Shopping Centre
Market Mall
Mariboruapin Mall (kiosk)
North Hill Shopping Centre
(kiosk)
Northland Village
Southeentre Mall
Southeentre
Sout

CANMORE 105 – 802 Bow Valley Trail

105—802 Bow Valley Trail
EDMONTON
3918 White Mud & 17th St.
6143—28th Ave.
9774—170th St.
10603—107th Ave.
17951—100th Ave.
1 Kingsway Mall (kiosk)
Kingsway Mall (kiosk)
Londonderry Mall
Mill Woods Town Centre
Northgate Centre (kiosk)
Sherwood Park Mall
South Edmonton Common
South Park Centre
Southgate Mall (kiosk)
St. Albert Centre
West Edmonton Mall
Westmount Centre
Whyte Avenue at 107 St.
FORT MCMURRAY
19 Riedel St.
Peter Pond Shopping Centre
GRANDE PRAIRIE

LEDUC 4916 – 50th Ave.

LETHBRIDGE Park Place SmartCentres Lethbridge LLOYDMINSTER Lloyd Mall

MEDICINE HAT Carry Drive Plaza Medicine Hat Mall

PEACE RIVER 10032 - 100th St. RED DEER
Bower Place Shopping Centre
Parkland Mall

ROCKY VIEW Crossiron Mills Mall SPRUCE GROVE Creekside Centre ST-ALBERT 460-140 St-Albert Rd

WHITECOURT 3439 -34th Avenue

Seriously, those Wiki leaks are a bit of a giggle

Merkel's uncreative, Berlusconi's a party boy
And then there's Gaddafi's voluptuous Ukrainian ...



World leaders may be doing worldwide damage control amid the WikiLeaks crisis, but for others poring over thousands of secret U.S. documents, there's been an unexpected treasure unearthed.

Laughter.

Springing from the fingertips of buttoned-down American diplomats have been several colourful dispatches about some of the most powerful, famous and feared people on Earth, revealing them to be every

Oh joy, no joy

- Longtime Canadian diplomat Paul Frazer says his cables stuck to issues not stories of wild parties.
- "I was in Warsaw in the midst of communism. There wasn't a lot of fun happening."

bit as human as the rest of

Britain's Prince Andrew: He puzzlingly boasts about Britain's superior geography teachers at a lunch with the U.S. ambassador to Kyrgyzstan.

Germany's Angela Merkel: She was described as someone who "avoids risks and is rarely creative."

Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi: He is "vain, feckless" and a serious party boy whose latenight revelries prevent him from being an effective leader.

Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi: He needs to be accompanied everywhere by a "voluptuous blond" Ukrainian nurse.

North Korea's Kim Jong-II: In Asia, diplomats quoted sources describing him as a "flabby old chap."

as a "flabby old chap."

France's President Nicolas Sarkozy: He spent a meeting with the U.S. ambassador chasing a rabbit around his office.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Was it a win — or a 'coup bid'

A senior adviser to Ivory Coast President Laurent Gbagbo has described an electoral commission's announcement of an election victory for the opposition as "an attempted coup." An election runoff was held last Sunday.

WikiLeaks says Mexican officials proposed a strategy for regaining order in three cities —Tijuana, Juarez and Culiacan.

Mexico's big fear

A Mexican minister told U.S. officials he feared Mexico would lose control of parts of the country to drug traffickers, says WikiLeaks. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





South Edmonton Common

(780) 485-9812

Mayfield Common (780) 489-2255

934 – 91 St. SW, Unit 1B (780) 485-8044

6031 Gateway Blvd (780) 438-2355

10013 170th St (780) 408-8917

12302 Stony Plain Rd (780) 488-6622

9715 - 137 Ave. (780) 456-5339

West Edmonton Mall

(780) 484-4758

(780) 443-3040

(780) 413-9855 (780) 483-8838

Southgate Centre

(780) 434-5620

Millwoods Mainstreet Mall

> (780) 440-2812 118 - 993 Fir St.

Sherwood Park (780) 417-2355

6104 50 St. Leduc (780) 986-0986

10176 109 St. (780) 426-2355

City Centre (780) 421-4540

Inglewood (780) 419-2355

Sunrise Towne Square Spruce Grove (780) 962-3980

St. Albert North Hill (780) 459-0660

ROGERS @

EDMONTON

9450-137 Ave. NW (780) 476-6844

7629-38 Ave. (780) 462-4559

11204 Jasper Ave. (780) 423-5530

5818 Terrace Rd. NW (780) 450-1377

6570-28 Ave. NW (780) 450-1377

15049 Stony Plain Rd. NW

(780) 484-1191

4270-137 Ave

(780) 457-1331

10381-51 Ave. NW (780) 435-8099

15341 Castle Downs Rd. NW

(780) 476-3925 Millwoods Town Centre

(780) 436-7766

Kingsway Garden (780) 471-3807

Londonderry Mall

(780) 476-3266

Northgate Mall

(780) 475-2724



«WIRELESSWAVE)















With the hottest new HD tablets from Rogers, you get crystal clear, hi-def images like

you've never seen before. Now you can lose yourself in games, apps, surfing and images on

large HD-quality, tablet-sized screens. Seeing is believing. And once you do, you'll agree, everything's better in HD.

© ROGERS™

WikiLeak's Assange on run

Spokesperson says his location is secret





Sweden's Supreme Court upheld a court order Thursday to detain WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange for questioning over allega-tions of rape and sexual molestation.

The 39-year-old Australian, who denies the accusations made by two Swedish women after his visit to the country in August, had appealed two lower court rulings allowing investigators to bring him into custody and issue an international arrest war-

He has not been formally charged.

WikiLeaks has angered the U.S. and other govern-ments by publishing almost



half a million secret documents about U.S. diplomatic relations and the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The search for Assange, whose whereabouts is unknown, was stepped up Wednesday as Sweden confirmed it had issued a European arrest warrant for him. Since leaving Sweden, the computer hacker has appeared in Britain and Switzerland but disappeared from public view after a Nov. 5 press conference in Geneva.

He has spoken publicly only through online inter-WikiLeaks and spokesman Kristinn Hrafnsson said late Wednesday the organization was trying to keep his location a secret for security reasons. He noted commentators in the United States and Canada had called for Assange to be hunted down or killed.

Britain's The Guardian, which helped broker the original WikiLeaks dump of Afghan intelligence files, has said Assange is hiding out in southeastern England. The paper did not cite a source for its information. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Turmoil in Greece

Police fired tear gas and clashed with youths during the brief incident after some 1,500 people marched through the Greek capital Thursday.

Microbe is out of this

The discovery of a strange bacteria that uses arsenic as one of its nutrients widens the scope for finding new forms of life on Earth and beyond.

Researchers discovered the bacteria on Earth, but say it shows life has possibilities beyond the major essential elements.

"This organism has dual capability. It can grow with either phosphorous or arsenic. That makes it very peculiar, though it falls short of being some form of truly 'alien' life,' commented Paul C. W. Davies of Arizona State University, a co-author of the report appearing in Thursday's online edition of the Journal Science.

Six major elements have long been considered essential for life - carbon, hydrogen, nitrogen, oxygen, phosphorus and sulfur.

Researchers discovered the bacteria in Mono Lake, California.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

moblerfurniture.com



10550 MAYFIELD ROAD TEL: (780) 444-1199

HAIR LOSS PROBLEM?

Find the solution to your hair loss problem today,

BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE!

Natural Hair Regrowth With FU YAN's Special Treatment System & Chinese Traditional Premium Herbs. (works for Men & Women)

Reasonable, Faster, and Better Results!



Many Albertan's have thanked **FU YAN** RESULTS WITHIN 3 MONTHS.

Some conditions apply

- No Medication
 No Surgery
- No Side Effects
 No Gimmicks

NATURAL HAIR REGROWTH TREATMENT CENTRE™ Suite 211, 10106 - 111 Ave, Edmonton AB T5T 1T1 TEL: 780-474-8564 FAX: 780-230-0213





Harper backs fretting Afghan ambassador

Says it's known Canada has been 'outspoken in its concerns about some aspects of Afghan governance'

WIKI LEAKS



Published reports say William Crosbie, Canada's Afghan ambassador, fears criticisms he made about Afghan president Hamid Karzai could damage Canada's relations with the leader.

Crosbie reportedly warned Ottawa that a U.S. diplomatic cable with the criticisms will soon be published on WikiLeaks, and has offered to step down.

When asked whether



Crosbie's criticisms went too far, Harper said "Crosbie doesn't represent the government of Afghanistan, he represents the government of Canada in Afghanistan." He said Ottawa will

He said Ottawa will continue to express those concerns "emphatically to our counterparts in Afghanistan."

The reports quote Crosbie saying he was very critical about the misuse of power of Karzai and his family.

Last month, Harper said the Afghan government doesn't deserve a "dime" of foreign aid money until it cleans up its act on combating corruption.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



DECEMBER 4, 11 &18 from **11 a.m.** to **3 p.m.**

Find the joy at 102 Avenue & 100 Street

For more information on the market and other events at the Square visit www.edmonton.ca/FunOnTheSquare

Enjoy family friendly events & heated tents!

Edmonton

McCain snubs U.S. military study on gays

• Military's top uniformed officer challenged McCain, saying wartime is ideal time to allow gays to serve openly

Directly challenging the Pentagon's top leadership, a leading Republican senator on Thursday snubbed a U.S. military study on gays as flawed and said letting them serve openly would be dangerous in a time of war.

Senator John McCain's opposition foreshadows the upcoming Senate debate on a bill that would overturn the 1993 "don't ask, don't tell" law, which bans gays from serving openly in the service.

McCain, a former Navy pilot, comes from a long family line of service in the military. He was a Vietnam era prisoner of war and was the Republican



presidential nominee in 2008 who lost to Barack Obama.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, has promised a vote, but McCain has helped to block previous debate on the Senate floor.

Further dimming chances of repeal this month was a recent agreement among Senate Republicans not to vote on any bill before addressing tax cuts and government spending.

spending.
Advocates of a repeal had hoped that this week's Pentagon study would have lessened Republican resistance to the bill.

McCain seized on the findings of the study to argue that forcing such a substantial personnel policy change in a time of war would be wrong for the military and the U.S.

He also criticized the study for scrutinizing only how the law could be repealed, instead of whether doing so would benefit the military.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Sex-workers say laws will loosen

▶ Harper says prostitution is 'bad for society' a view shared by 'most Canadians' ▶ Stay pressures government to expedite appeal process

Summer appeal

A schedule worked out by lawyer Alan Young, representing sex-trade workers, and government lawyers says an appeal will be heard in the summer.

- It will likely end up before the Supreme Court. Young believes Justice Susan Himel's decision will stand.
- "The only really important issue right now is whether the law is going to be applied in the short term," Young said.
- "These laws are necessary ito protect not only the individuals ... but the communities as well," Justice Minister Rob Nicholson said.

Sex-trade workers will one day be able to legally provide for their families and work in Canada without fear of violence, advocates predicted Thursday, even as Ontario's top court kept prostitution laws in place for now.

A landmark court ruling striking down three key prostitution laws was put on hold until April 29, giving the federal and provincial governments time to appeal.

appeal.
Dominatrix Terri-Jean
Bedford, one of the three
sex-trade workers at the
heart of this case, said outside court yesterday that
she is confident they will
win in the end.

But she suggested Prime Minister Stephen Harper is hiding behind the courts on the contentious issue, and challenged him to "fight like a man."

"He can withdraw this appeal at any moment and change the law through Parliament," she said.

"His silence means that he does not know what to do and is not concerned about the violence against women."

Harper was asked about Bedford's comments after he made an unrelated announcement and seemed tickled.

"I've never been called upon to respond to a dominatrix before," he said with a smirk.

Harper said the government supports the laws and his government looks forward to fighting on appeal to keep them on the books

Bedford said she will continue to fight for the safety of other women.

"The only people who benefit from this law right now are tax evaders and organized crime," she said.

"The women need to be able to call the police when they're beat up by the pimps and the johns. As it stands right now they can't. They can't press charges because they're carted to jail along with (the assailants)."

Prostitution was not illegal in Canada, but the court struck down three provisions that criminalized most aspects of prostitution. Criminal Code offences dealing with people under 18 are not affected. THE CANADIAN PRESS







B.C.'S NDP faces a growing split

• Party leader Carole James wants emergency meeting

New Democrat Leader Carole James wants an emergency caucus meeting this weekend, to discuss a smouldering split within the party over her leadership.

James' longest serving caucus member, Jenny Kwan, fanned the flames of dissent yesterday with a critique of James' leadership and a call for an immediate

leadership convention.

Flanked by 13 caucus members, James says she will not take any immediate action against Kwan, because she wants to know what other party members think should be done.

James is once again calling for the New Democrats to unite as a party.

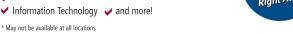
Dissent within the NDP caucus has been growing since former Quesnel-area New Democrat Bob Simpson was expelled from the caucus for publicly criticizing James in September.

His expulsion sparked the resignations of caucus chairman Norm Macdonald and caucus whip Katrine Conroy, and resulted in the public outing of at least a dozen NDP caucus members. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Thinking of going to college? This is the place for you. Choose your career and program of study, and get on your way to a life you want. Academy of Learning gives you lots of choices and flexibility. Start today and get into the workforce quickly - in less than one year.

- Healthcare
- Business
- ✓ Office Administration
- ✓ Accounting / Payroll
- ✓ Legal Administration *
- ✓ Web Design
- ✓ Hotel & Tourism *
- Insurance
- ✓ Information Technology



Edmonton Downtown **Edmonton South** West Edmonton Mall Red Deer Calgary **Medicine Hat**

(780) 424-1144 (780) 433-7284 (780) 496-9428 (403) 347-6676 (403) 569-8973 (403) 526-5833 Financial Assistance may be available to those who qualify!



Simply a BETTER Way to Learn!





Rescuers die in Israeli forest fire

• Guards were trying to help evacuate Palestinian prisoners

A bus evacuating people from a massive forest fire Thursday in northern Israel went up in flames, killing dozens of guards who were helping to rescue inmates from a prison, officials said.

Fire officials said the blaze, which torched some 800 acres and was one of the deadliest accidents in the country's history, remained out of control as nightfall arrived.

"This is a disaster of unprecedented proportions," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said. He said the government was using all means at its disposal to contain the blaze.

The fire in the northern Carmel region broke out around midday.

Yoram Levy, a spokesman for the national fire service, said some 40 people were killed as a result of the fire, most of them from the bus accident. He said officials suspected the fire erupted after people were burning garbage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





leatherelite.com

444-7800

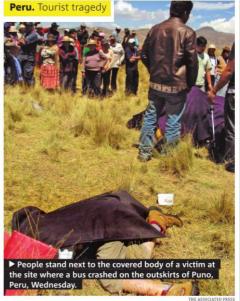
Edmonton's Largest Leather Furniture Selection!



We're Open Monday-Wednesday and Friday 10-6, Thursday 10-8, Saturday 10-5 Sunday 12-4

10434 MAYFIELD ROAD





Five dead in Peru crash

Police said a tourist bus collided head-on with a truck loaded with cement, killing five European travellers and both drivers. Twenty-eight more people were injured.

Family misses man Cuba says is a spy

In the year her American husband has been detained in Cuba, accused of spying for the U.S., Judy Gross has been forced to sell the family home and move into a small apartment in Washington. Her younger daughter, distraught and crying as her father's birthday approached, crashed and totalled her car. Her older daughter has been diagnosed with breast cancer.

More than 1,770 kilometres away, Alan Gross passes his days in a Cuban military hospital, watching baseball on a small television or jamming with his jailers on a stringed instrument they gave him.

When Alan Gross left for Cuba last December, his

No developments

Case. Gloria Berbena, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Interests Section in Havana, which Washington maintains instead of an embassy, said that she knew of no new developments in the case, though officials continue to press the Cuban government to release Gross.

wife says he planned to spend just 10 days there helping to set up Internet access for members of the country's small Jewish population, believed to number about 1,500.

He was arrested at his hotel a year ago Friday, accused by Cuban President Raul Castro and other senior leaders of spying.

His detention has become a sticking point in relations between the U.S. and Cuba, two countries that have been at odds for decades. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Taking to the streets

The Irish economy has faltered after years of growth, and European Union finance ministers recently OK'd an aid package totalling 85 billion euros (\$112 billion).

Study: Women don't get credit for cash smarts

• Findings show media paint women as meek on money Most Canadian women confident about money matters

Canadian woman, it seems, are more than capable when it comes to managing their personal and house hold finances.

However, whether those abilities are being accurately portrayed or perceived was enough to prompt one financial expert to commission the study entitled Financial Lives of Girls and Women

Barbara Stewart, a portfolio manager at Cumber-Private Wealth Management Inc., hired Angus Reid Public Opinion to examine what she views as "fundamental disconnect" between how women

When it comes to getting financial news, about 48 per cent of women chose newspapers and 33 per cent picked up financial knowledge through television.

describe their ability to manage their personal finances and what they actually do.

"Paradoxically, while women are in fact confident in financial matters,

many persist in using selfdeprecating language when asked about their ability to manage their finances," said Stewart, in a white paper containing the results.

"This outdated script is not useful for women and their finances and it is not consistent with reality."

About 1,000 women participated. Stewart also con-25 one-on-one ducted separate interviews with additional women and focus groups were employed to back up the results published in a white paper exploring the findings.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Shaw calls for online regulation

Telecom company Shaw Communications is calling on the CRTC to regulate certain aspects of the Internet to protect Canadian broadcasting.
The cable carrier,

broadcaster and Internet provider told a Commons heritage committee Thursday that online movie providers Netflix, Hulu and video site Google TV are undermining Canadian broadcasters' ability to pay for domestic content.

Shaw executives said the Calgary-based company, which recently bought Canwest Global, pays about \$150 million a year for local content and to support Canadian producers through the Canadian Media Fund.

But Netflix, Hulu, Google TV and others can distribute similar programming without any responsibilities to generate Canadian content, or pay into the fund that supports Canadian producers, actors, writers and directors.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

EXCITING CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN THE TRADES! Can lead to an Apprenticeship

Unemployed or underemployed? Seeking a full-time permanent position?

Parts & Materials **Technician Training**

Begin your training towards a rewarding caree as a Parts Technician or Materials Technician.

Parts, Warehouse and Supply Chains are looking for Apprenticeable people like you!

Applications are now being accepted. Seating is limited. After all ... you too deserve a successful career!

> **Call the Parts/Materials** Technicians Program today:

Kevin Pierce · 780.732.4283 kpierce@mcbridecareers.com



Service Directory

FINANCIAL



by phone, no credit refused, quick and easy, payable over 3, 6, or 12 installments. Call toll free

1-877-776-1660 www.moneyprovider.com



Market moment



(13,163.53)

(99.61¢ US)

Natural gas

Gold contracts

Apartment Finder

To advertise contact Yvonne Markey at 780-701-0347



Garneau Towers-8510 111th Street located 2 blocks southeast of Hub and the University

780-432-1894 www.caprent.com rentals@capreit.net



Maximize your accounting career potential

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Alberta is offering courses to help you learn the language skills you need to be successful in your accounting career.

If you are an accounting student or accounting professional whose first language is not English, these courses have been specifically designed for you. Learn the basics of Canadian business language (spoken and written) and culture to help navigate through today's complex business world. Courses are offered in both Edmonton and Calgary on Tuesday evenings.

Classes begin January 18

To find out more, or to register, go to www.albertaCAs.ca.





MINUTES WITH: HRISTIE BLATCHFORD

Columnist Christie Blatchford's controversial new book is Helpless: Caledonia's Nightmare Of Fear And Anarchy, And How The Law Failed All Of Us, about the First Nations occupation of Douglas Creek Estates.

Protesters prevented you from speaking at the University of Waterloo.

I was, yeah, and I've been invited back. My fear is that we'll go from one ridiculous extreme to the other. The first time I went to Waterloo, three people with bicycle locks chaining them together managed to completely shut down my speech. This time the university, I

think embarrassed by what happened, is overly well-prepared and I'm sure there'll be all but, you know, a paramilitary organization in there to protect me, which I'm sure isn't necessary either, so we'll see what happens. You refer to the book as "this sucker." Can you explain your feelings about writing it? It was hard. The only other book I've really written was about Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan. Because I was in Kandahar then, I wasn't in Caledonia. So it meant I had to read a lot more newspapers, local papers, I had to read more

documents, I had to make

sure that I even knew what the weather was on certain days. All the people I interviewed, probably close to 50 people, it took a lot of work just transcribing the tapes, and then I had to write it very quickly.

What did you do when you were done?

I went out to dinner with my friends Moose and Pat and had a glass of wine. Mostly it was so great not to have to work every night until midnight. I didn't have to go back up to my prison. By then I had already started the renovation of my house, and a massive diet, so I had two other ways in play already

to punish myself. What a dope, eh?

You once suggested your paper should have a full-time aboriginal issues reporter. Is that still needed? I think it's a great idea. But

tackling the aboriginal story in this country is so complicated and so f---d up that it would consume you completely. I was out at Yellow Quill, this northern reserve in Saskatchewan. It was so depressing and so corrupt and so hopeless, I don't know where you'd start. Someone should do it, but I just don't think it's going

to be me. I don't have the

STEVE COLLINS

Cartoon

Building up a good sweat

HEY, I THOUGHT PROSTITUTION WAS STILL ILLEGAL.

Worth mentioning

The UN weather agency says this year is "almost certain" to rank among the three hottest years on record.

And 2001-10 is undoubtedly the warmest 10-year period since the beginning of weather records in 1850, the agency said Thursday.

Data from the World Meteorological Organization released at UN climate negotiations confirmed a warming trend that has gone on for decades, which scientists attribute to man-made pollution trapping heat in the

atmosphere.
WMO secretary general Michel Jarraud said this year's temperatures through October were at



near-record levels. Data for November and December will be analyzed in early 2011, but were expected to be slightly cooler than normal. Still, there is a "significant possibility 2010 could be the warmest," Jarraud told reporters. The two other extraordinary years were 1998 and 2005. Jarraud said these three steaming years were within a fraction of a degree -0.02 C — of each other.

This year also saw startling weather events: A deadly summer heat wave in Russia with temperatures in Moscow soaring to a record 38.2 C. Devastating floods in Pakistan were part of the same weather anomaly, Jarraud

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Do you think the economic stimulus plan is working? **Email** edmontonletters @metronews.ca **Twitter** @metroedmonton

Metro has the right to edit letters and submissions.

METRO EDMONTON • Suite 2070, 10123 - 99 Street • Edmonton, AB • T5J 3H1 • T: 780-702-0592 • Fax: 780-701-0356 Advertising: 780-702-0592 • adinfoedmonton@metronews.ca • edmonton_distribution@metronews.ca

Publisher Steve Shrout, Managing Editor Darren Krause, Sales Manager Cheryl Skogg, Distribution Manager Jim Hillman

METRO CANADA: Group Publisher Bill McDonald, Editor-in-Chief Charlotte Empey, **Deputy National Editor** Fernando Carneiro, Associate Managing Editor Tarin Elbert, Scene/Life Editor Dean Lisk, Asst Managing Editor Amber Shortt, Art Director Laila Hakim, Nat'l Sales Director Peter Bartrem, Interactive/Marketing

Metro Minute at Festival of Trees

Want a hefty dose of the Christmas spirit? It's time once again to enter the magical world at the Festival of Trees.

Dozens of specially decorated trees highlight this family-friendly event at the Shaw Conference Centre, and the admission is around \$5 per person.

But there's something for the entire family at the event, as thousands of Edmontonians will funnel through, gathering their own bit of Christmas cheer, with children's activities, live entertainment and gift shops.

The event runs to Sunday. All proceeds from the event go to help fund new neurological equipment at University Hospital.

Three days to play

IF THE EDMONTON OILERS MOVED, WOULD YOU BECOME A CALGARY



Kara Schmidt

Nooo, can't do it. Just no love for Calgary.



Ben Doleac

FDMONTON

I'd say yeah. If (the Oilers) aren't in Edmonton, what's the point of support-

metr@scene

Director of Academy Award winning film The Lives of Others takes on a big budget actionromance in The Tourist • Finding a balance between humour and seriousness • How it's tough to cast women opposite the scintillating Angelina Jolie



From the Cold War to hot romance



After earning international acclaim — and an Academy Award — for his dark Cold War drama and debut film The Lives of Others, German-born director Florien Henckel von Donnersmarck wanted to try a slightly different change of pace. And he couldn't have gotten much more different tonally than The Tourist, a big-budget romance caper starring Angelina Jolie and Johnny Depp. Henckel von Donnersmarck spoke with Metro about fixing up the film's script, cutting out laughs and why Angelina Iolie doesn't have any female co-stars.

You're credited with writing the film, along with two other writers. Can you take us through the process of each writer's contribution?

Since so much of it was before I came on board, I don't really know. I read a script that Julian Fellowes, McOuarrie Christopher and, I think, three or four others had contributed to. Or four or five others. I mean, it was massive. And still it was a script that no-body — and I'm sure those two actors - would have been happy with. It was just one of those scripts that had been developed into so many different direc-



tions under so many different influences. could tell that it was slightly somehow a schizophrenic script.

What were your biggest changes to the script when you took it on?

I wanted to make it into a true love story between these people, and I also wanted people to think throughout the whole throughout the whole film, "Is this guy the per-son they're looking for or not?" And for them to flip back and forth. For this not to be a film that somehow a surprise comes out of nowhere at the end, but for it to really be a constant cat-andmouse game. And then it was also shaping in the characters, giving them a kind of humour and humanity.

The finished film has a dis-

tinct sense of fun to it.

The interesting thing, when I screened a rough cut for the first time, for some people, it played re-ally well, but it played too much like a comedy. People were laughing so ple were laughing so much, and then I realized I'd gone a little too far in that whole kind of comedy thing. So I actually started cutting out a lot of the humour. ... I don't want people to be laughing in this film, I want them to be smiling.

I noticed there are hardly any other women on screen besides Angelina Jolie.

There's not a single other female speaking on screen. I feel she's so scintillating and exciting as a woman, it's hard for other women to really be able to shine next to her. She's enough woman for an entire film.

scene





Actor Chuck Norris for years played a Texas Ranger on tele-vision. Now he's going to become one in real life.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry is scheduled to present the actor and executive director of Walker, Texas Ranger with a designation as an honorary member of the famed law enforcement group Thursday.

Ceremonies to honour the 70-year-old martial arts star will take place at a Texas Rangers office in suburban Dallas

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







"ECLIPSE IS THE BEST TWILD

metr_®

metronews.ca WEEKEND, DECEMBER 3-5, 2010

BALLET TRANSLATES WELL TO BIG SCREEN

films ever" and the movie

inspired Kate Bush's song

and album of the same

nominated for four Oscars and took home a

pair, which is two more than our next ballet film,

even though it was nomi-

nated for eleven. The Turning Point (which ties

The Color Purple for most

MacLaine and Anne Ban-croft as life long rivals;

one who left the ballet to

become a wife and moth-

nominations with no wins) starred Shirley

er, the other who

stayed and became

a star. Audrey

Kelly were all offered the

lead roles, but turned them down. After see-

ing the movie

ted her deci

sion.

Hepburn regret-

Hepburn, Doris Day and Grace

name. The Red Shoes was



allet is inherently dramatic so it is no wonder the movies have frequently looked to pointe shoes and bun heads for inspiration. The first ballet moves captured on film were likely in turn-of-the-last-century animated films of Alexander Shiryaev, whose crude but beautiful films used drawings and puppets as an early form of dance notation.

Since then the movies have been dancing with the stars. Everyone from legendary performers like Mikhail Baryshnikov to gifted amateurs like Natalie Portman, who plays a beautiful but trou-bled ballerina in this weekend's dark drama Black Swan, have done a cinematic grand jeté or

The most classic ballet between two men — a composer who loves her and an impresario who wants to make her a star. The British Film Institute labeled it one of "the best British

"That was the one film," she said, "that got away from me."

There are dozens of Hollywood ballet movies. It's almost tutu much (you had to know that pun was coming); White Nights, Center Stage (with Avatar's Zoe Saldana), Billy Elliot, The Company (made with the cooperation of the Joffrey Ballet) and even the South Korean horror film Wishing Stairs feature stories about fictional ballet dancers, but there are many interesting bal-let documentaries as well.

The history of the Bal-let Russe of Monte Carlo is touchingly and lovingly told in Ballets Russes, an intimate documentary focused on the founders of modern ballet. Also fascinating is La danse — Le ballet de l'Opéra de Paris, director Frederick Wiseman's fly-on-the-wall look at the production of seven ballets by the Paris Opera Ballet.



movie has to be The Red Shoes. The 1948 classic interweaves on and off stage action to tell the story of a ballerina pulled

FEATURES OVER 90 MINUTES OF EXTRAS, INCLUDING AUDIO COMMENTARIES WITH ROBERT PATTING

S...WITH A CHOICE.

Tarantino served up and roasted

Director's long-delayed roast was a record-setter for attendance • Roth steals the show with offside jokes

brought shock and awe to the podium of a Friar's Club Roast of actor Quentin Tarantino on Wednesday night, saying it was a roaster's responsibility to be sick and distaste-

He didn't disappoint, covering ground that would make Richard Pryor blush — and offering no apologies. "Pretty much what peo-

ple say about Hostel 2, I want them to say about my speech," Roth said referring to his 2007 horror flick.

Roth ripped the Wein-stein's — filmmakers Harvey and Bob — who were sitting on the dais, joked about dead comic Greg Giraldo and poked fun at Tarantino's physical ap-pearance. He also alluded to Tarantino's alleged foot fetish saying, "Quentin's got a bigger collection of women's Dachau." shoes

Joining Roth at the event in New York was Sarah Silverman, Uma Thurman, Brett Ratner and roastmaster Samuel L. Jackson, who referred to the pack as a "true collection of



▶ Filmmaker Eli Roth, left, actor Samuel L. Jackson and director Quentin Tarantino, right, attend the Quentin Tarantino Friars Club Roast at the New York Hilton Hotel on Wednesday.

freaks." Then he thanked Jim Henson, creator of The Muppets, for designing Tarantino's face, and kicked off the show.

Originally scheduled for October, the roast was postponed because of the death of Tarantino's longtime film editor and close friend Sally Menke. Freddie Roman of the Friar's Club said he feared the change in dates would lead to a lower turnout, but it

seemed to the opposite

The event packed the Hilton ballroom, drawing a record-setting crowd of nearly 2,300. That's unprecedented for the fraternal organization.

While some of the acts were clearly funny, others were not as engaging. Harvey Keitel spent more time vey Kettel spent more time talking about Reservoir Dogs than making jokes. Ratner, a director, missed some of his timing cues, and Michael Madsen looked as if he had just rolled out of bed. While Keitel was spared by most, Ratner and Madsen were heavily attacked throughout the show.



SON & KRISTEN STEWART.





metr⊕scene

5

top lesbian scenes

Natalie Portman and Mila Kunis play bitter ballet rivals in Darren Aronofsky's trippy Black Swan. But the heightened emotion they feel for each other ends up bubbling over into a passionate sex scene that's had people talking for months before the film's release.

Well, now Black Swan is almost here, so it's a great opportunity — and not gratuitous at all, really — to take a look at the five most famous lesbian scenes on film.

A side note: Showgirls might have been a serious contender, but it appeared last week among the five most irresistible guilty-pleasure movies. It is tempting to find a reason to talk about Showgirls every week, though...

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mulholland Dr. (2001)

The first intimate encounter between Naomi Watts and Laura Elena Harring is soft and sweet ... but because this is a David Lynch movie, naturally the relationship between these two women becomes darker and more complicated.

Watts, as aspiring starlet Betty Elms (at this point in the film, at

least), gets tangled up with Harring's gorgeous amnesiac Rita. As the two embark on an adventure, playing girl-detective to solve the mystery of Rita's past, their fear and loneliness lead to a kiss which leads to one of the loveliest lesbian scenes ever filmed. In a movie full of twists, this is a rare moment of pure, instinctive emotion.



Cruel Intentions (1999)

The most chaste of the five on this list, but it did earn Sarah Michelle Gellar and Selma Blair the highly coveted "Best Kiss" prize at the MTV Movie Awards.

In this prep-school version of Dangerous Liaisons, Gellar functions in the Glenn Close role as a conniving and manipulative rich girl who dominates Manhattan's Upper East Side. Blair is in the Uma Thurman role as a malleable innocent.

Since Blair's character has never kissed a boy before, Gellar's teaches her what to do during a picnic in Central Park: "I'm gonna stick my tongue in your mouth, and when I do that I want you to massage my tongue with yours." It all sounds pretty straightforward.







Bound (1996)

Before The Wachowski Brothers entered the Matrix, the writing-directing duo made their debut with this funny, tense and sexy neo-noir.

Jennifer Tilly plays Violet, the seemingly ditzy girlfriend of a mobster; Gina Gershon plays Corky, the maintenance woman in their apartment building

who just got out of prison. Violet's attraction to Corky is instantaneous, and eventually the two cook up a scheme to steal \$2 million in stashed cash from Violet's boyfriend.

A ridiculous amount of contrived meetings and flirting leads to an intense

— but artfully photographed — love scene between the two women.



Wild Things (1998)

It starts out as a face-slapping, hair-pulling cat fight in a swimming pool and ends up in a make-out session, complete with bikinis and T-shirts being tossed aside with sultry music in the background.

Denise Richards plays the naughty rich girl and Neve Campbell plays the naughty poor girl; despite coming from opposite sides of the tracks, they manage to get together to concoct some rape accusations against their high school guidance counsellor (Matt Dillon).

The fact that this takes place in South Florida makes the whole movie feel even more steamy and tawdry. Wild Things easily could have made last week's guilty-pleasure list, too. It's so multipurpose.

LAST APP!

updated daily.

App Stone



D.E.B.S. (2004):

As if it weren't enough to have a bunch of beautiful, teenage spies dressed in naughty schoolgirl outfits, their leader (Sara Foster) ends up secretly falling for the deadly criminal (Jordana Brewster) who is their primary target.

Writer-director Angela Robinson's film isn't exactly great cinema but it also

doesn't take itself too seriously, and features plenty of fun, cheeky moments. (Its tagline: "They're crime-fighting hotties with killer bodies.")

That's indeed true of Foster and Brewster, who share a few kisses and teasing moments before their eventual playful and passionate hook-up.

